



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 17 2020

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Theodore C. Cooke
General Manager
Central Arizona Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 43020
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Colorado River Water Diversion – Central Arizona Water Conservation District (District)

Dear Mr. Cooke:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received the District's CY 2021 Colorado River water diversion estimate. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides the District with notice of my determination regarding the District's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for CY 2021.

Under Contract No. 14-06-W-245, as amended and supplemented, the District is entitled to divert the balance of Arizona's 2.8 million acre-foot (AF) basic apportionment not consumed by higher priority Arizona entitlement holders. In accordance with Section III.B.1.a of Exhibit 1 to the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* (LB DCP Agreement)¹ the state of Arizona is required to make a DCP Contribution in the amount of 192,000 AF in CY 2021, based on the August 2020 24-Month Study projection that Lake Mead's elevation will be 1,085.28 feet on January 1, 2021.² The District has agreed to make the required DCP Contribution for the state of Arizona.

The District's CY 2021 diversion estimate reflects a schedule to divert 1.478 million AF, and states that the District has planned its CY 2021 diversions to divert Arizona's full 2.8 million AF apportionment less the mandatory DCP Contribution³ and other system conservation activities for which the District has agreed to forbear diverting in CY 2021. Reclamation notes that the District's estimate does not incorporate any Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS creation by the District or the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). Reclamation anticipates that the District will adjust its

¹ *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Operations* (LBOps).

² In the event Lake Mead's actual elevation on January 1, 2021 is higher than 1,090 feet, Section III.E.3 of LBOps will apply.

³ The District anticipates that the DCP Contribution will be made through the District's Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) actions and direct reductions in the District's consumptive use.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

CY 2021 diversion estimate downward through means of a revised CY 2021 water order to reflect a reduction in Central Arizona Project (CAP) water demands by the District and GRIC for EC ICS creation purposes.

Based upon the approved water orders of higher priority Arizona entitlement holders, Reclamation estimates that 1,401,296 AF of Arizona basic apportionment will be available to the District in CY 2021. Taking into consideration this estimate, a review of the District's CY 2021 diversion estimate, the information gathered during Reclamation's Part 417 consultation, and other pertinent information, I approve the diversion of up to 1,401,296 AF of Colorado River water by the District during CY 2021 for use in the District's service area. I also approve the District to divert any additional unused Arizona basic apportionment of Colorado River water as reflected on Reclamation's website, to the extent such water becomes available during CY 2021.

The table below provides the factors used to develop the District's approved diversion for CY 2021.

Water Budget Item	Amount (AF)
Arizona Basic Apportionment	2,800,000
Estimated Uses by Higher Priority Arizona Entitlement Holders	(1,130,801)
System Conservation Water – City of Bullhead City (City) ⁴	(360)
System Conservation Water – Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) ⁵	(50,000)
System Conservation Water – Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (FMYN) ⁶	(13,933)
System Conservation Water – Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District (MVIDD) ⁷	(6,925)
Creation of EC ICS – CRIT	(4,685)
Reduction for DCP Contribution	(192,000)
Total Approved Diversion	1,401,296

⁴ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by the City pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) No. 15-XX-30-W0587, as amended. In accordance with this SCIA and Letter Agreement No. 15-XX-30-W0588, as amended, between Reclamation and District, this System Conservation Water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

⁵ System Conservation Water to be created by CRIT pursuant to the *Agreement Among the United States of America, Through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the State of Arizona, Through the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes to Fund the Creation of Colorado River System Water Through Voluntary Water Conservation and Reductions in use During Calendar Years 2020-2022* (Conservation Agreement), which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage. In accordance with Section 9.1 of the Conservation Agreement, the District agreed to not divert or order delivery of this System Conservation Water.

⁶ CAP water being conserved by FMYN pursuant to SCIA No. 20-XX-30-W0688, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage. In accordance with Section 3.b of the LB DCP Agreement and Section 3.e of the *Agreement Regarding Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Obligations*, the District agreed to forbear from ordering the water being conserved under this SCIA.

⁷ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by MVIDD pursuant to SCIA No. 20-XX-30-W0686 which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage. In accordance with Section 3.b of the LB DCP Agreement and Section 3.e of the *Agreement Regarding Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Obligations*, the District agreed to forbear from ordering the water being conserved under this SCIA.

This approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The data on Reclamation's website are provisional until final records are issued. Any diversions made as a result of the values on the website are at the District's own risk.
2. All available Colorado River water within Arizona has been approved for beneficial use within the state. In cases where approvals to higher priority entitlement holders are less than their Colorado River entitlements, the approvals may be increased to their full entitlements.
3. Final accounting records published by Reclamation may differ from the provisional data on the website. Adjustments to the final records may result in an inadvertent overrun by the District.
4. The District will be required to pay back any overrun according to the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy.
5. Reclamation may at any time rescind this approval to divert unused Arizona apportionment of Colorado River water.

Reclamation will monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2021 in an effort to assist each entitlement holder in ensuring its annual approval amount is not exceeded. Beginning in January 2021, these projections will be available to users on a daily basis on Reclamation's website: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf. It is expected that entitlement holders within the state of Arizona will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities or, as appropriate, seek modification of the approval.

Thank you for submitting the District's diversion estimate for CY 2021. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Jeremy Dodds, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at (702) 293-8164 or jdodds@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Stacy L. Wade
Acting Regional Director
Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin
Bureau of Reclamation

cc: Mr. Christopher S. Harris
Executive Director
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